



Kimberly Kanary, 27

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"WORK HARD, DREAM BIG AND GO FOR IT. NEVER LET ANYBODY HOLD YOU BACK."

MOST INTERESTING ASPECT COMPETING IN MISS OHIO?

Being on a stage in front of thousands of people ... and having the opportunity to have a microphone that you wouldn't necessarily have otherwise, and getting out the message about community service issues that are very important to me.

DREAM JOB?

I think I'm doing it. I absolutely love being a spokesperson for my company. While it's never fun to have a crisis, I love to be able to help resolve a crisis situation.

SOMETHING PEOPLE TELL YOU ALL THE TIME?

People tell me that I'm very well accomplished for my age, especially since I went through my education so quickly.

HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH SCHOOL SO QUICKLY?

During my senior year in high school, I did postsecondary, so I had almost a year under my belt. And then I just took really heavy course loads, and never took less than 18 hours.

ADVICE FOR YOUNG FEMALE PROFESSIONALS?

Young females need to be true to themselves. Women have so much to offer to the corporate world because we have the intelligence, but we also have that nurturing side to us. So I think we bring a lot of balance to the corporate world.

HOW DOES A POOR HOUSING MARKET AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS?

For [Associated Estates], since we own apartment buildings, when the housing

GOAL ORIENTED: To say Kimberly Kanary is ambitious would be an understatement. The New London native graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College in just two years in 2000, and completed her master's degree at Bowling Green State University in one. To fund her education, Kanary competed in the Miss Ohio Scholarship Program from 1999 until 2004. With CNN Headline News Anchor Robin Meade — a New London native crowned Miss Ohio in 1992 — as her role model, Kanary held five separate titles including Miss Mansfield. She earned more than \$30,000 in scholarships. **CORPORATE CLIMBER:** Kanary began her career in corporate communications and media relations as one of two spokespersons worldwide for the J.M. Smucker Co. From there, she moved on to Associated Estates Realty Corp. in 2005, handling investor and media relations for the more than 100 properties it owns. **PASSION DRIVEN:** Because her mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) when she was 10, Kanary is passionate about health-related organizations. Today, the Wayne County resident is an MS ambassador for the MS Society in Cleveland and serves on its communications committee. She is also on the board of directors for Valley Riding Inc., a therapeutic equestrian center, and is the chair of its marketing/communications committee. Kanary also volunteers in local Miss Ohio programs.

market isn't doing so well, it's actually beneficial to us. When people can't afford to buy a home, they tend to rent.

HOW DO YOU UNWIND?

I listen to music, or go outside and relax. Read a good book. I try to do something that is a no-brainer because my job tends to be high stress.

HOBBIES?

I ride my horse. Anything that can get me outside — golfing, swimming, being around a pool or beach — I just love.

LAST VACATION?

My honeymoon, unfortunately, which was in the fall of '05. We went to Riviera Maya, Mexico, to an all-inclusive resort. It was absolutely fabulous.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

Achieving my goals or accomplishing something for which I've worked so hard.

NEW GOALS?

I would love to see myself as vice president of corporate communications in five years. It seems like a lofty objective perhaps for somebody my age, but it's something I am confident I can do.

— LYNDSEY WALKER
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